

## CLAIMS

1. A fingerprint acquisition assembly comprising:  
at least one camera for capturing an electronic image at a  
5 first focal range;

at least one optical interface for providing a macro  
image to the at least one camera at a second focal range;  
and

wherein the at least one camera pivots within the  
10 acquisition assembly for capturing a fingerprint image in  
the second focal range though the at least one optical  
interface.

2. A fingerprint acquisition assembly as in claim 1  
15 wherein the optical interface is a prism.

3. A fingerprint acquisition assembly as in claim 1  
wherein the optical interface is a mirror and lens assembly.

20 4. A fingerprint acquisition assembly as in claim 1,  
wherein the acquisition assembly can be connected to a two-  
way communications device for electronic transmission of the  
image to a remote location.

25 5. A fingerprint acquisition assembly as in claim 1,  
further wherein a finger is placed directly on a surface of  
the prism for acquisition by the at least one camera.

30 6. A fingerprint acquisition assembly as in claim 1,  
further comprising a display for viewing images generated by  
the at least one camera.

7. A fingerprint acquisition assembly for use in electronic fingerprint transmission comprising:

at least one digital camera for capturing an image in a first range of focal lengths;

5 at least one optical interface for providing a fingerprint image at a second range of focal lengths to the at least one camera; and

wherein the at least one camera is moveable with the acquisition assembly such that images maybe captured either  
10 in the first range of focal lengths or the second range of focal lengths.

8. A fingerprint acquisition assembly as in claim 7 where the at least one optical interface is a prism.

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9. A fingerprint acquisition assembly as in claim 7 wherein the at least one optical interface is a lens and mirror assembly.

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10. The fingerprint acquisition assembly as in claim 7, wherein the acquisition assembly can be connected to a two-way communications device for electronic transmission of the image to a remote location.

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11. The fingerprint acquisition assembly as in claim 7, wherein the acquisition assembly provides connection to a networked device used for electronic exchange or storage of images and fingerprints.

12. The fingerprint acquisition assembly as in claim  
7,

5 further wherein a finger is placed directly on a  
surface of the at least one prism for acquisition by the at  
least one camera.

13. The fingerprint acquisition assembly as in claim  
7, further comprising a display for viewing images from the  
10 at least one digital camera.

14. A method of acquiring a fingerprint for electronic transmission over a communications device comprising the steps of:

5 providing at least one electronic camera for capturing an image in a first focal length range;

providing at least one optical interface for supplying a fingerprint image to the least one electronic camera in a second focal length range;

10 pivoting the camera within a camera assembly depending upon whether an image is desired from the first focal length range or the second focal length range; and

transmitting a captured fingerprint image using the communications device.

15 of acquiring a fingerprint for electronic transmission as in claim 10, further comprising the step of:

positioning a finger directly on a surface of the at least one prism to provide a fingerprint image in the second focal length range.

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15. A method of acquiring a fingerprint for electronic transmission as in claim 14, wherein the optical interface is a prism.

25 16. A method of acquiring a fingerprint for electronic transmission as in claim 14, wherein the optical interface is a lens and mirror assembly.

30 17. A method of acquiring a fingerprint for electronic transmission as in claim 14, further comprising the step of:

displaying an image generated by the at least one electronic camera before electronic transmission over the communications device.